

CAUSE NO. DC-16-10011

Christi Underwood

MINH TRAN	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	§	
<i>Plaintiff</i>	§	
	§	
V.	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
	§	
ALLSTATE VEHICLE & PROPERTY	§	
INSURANCE COMPANY	§	_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT
	§	
<i>Defendant</i>	§	

---

**PLAINTIFF MINH TRAN'S ORIGINAL PETITION**

---

**TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:**

**COMES NOW**, Minh Tran, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), complaining of Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant") and for cause of action would respectfully show unto this Honorable Court and Jury as follows:

**DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN**

1. Plaintiff intends for discovery to be conducted under Level 2 of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 190.3 and affirmatively pleads that this suit is not governed by the expedited-actions process of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 169, because Plaintiff seeks monetary relief of over \$100,000.

**PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff is an individual residing in Dallas County, Texas.
3. Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company is a foreign insurance company engaging in the business of insurance in the State of Texas. This Defendant may be served with process by serving its registered



agent of service, CT Corporation System, located at the following address: 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas, Texas 75201.

### **JURISDICTION**

4. The court has jurisdiction over this cause of action because the amount in controversy is within the jurisdictional limits of the Court.
5. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company because this Defendant is a foreign insurance company that engages in the business of insurance in the State of Texas, and Plaintiff's causes of action arise out of this Defendant's business activities in the State of Texas. Specifically, Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company sought out and marketed for insurance in Texas and has "purposefully availed" itself of the privilege of conducting activities in Texas. *Kelly v. General Interior Constr., Inc.*, 301 S.W.3d 653, 660-61 (Tex.2010).

### **VENUE**

6. Venue is proper in Dallas County, Texas, because the Property is situated in Dallas County, Texas. Tex.Civ.Prac.Rem.Code §15.032.

### **FACTS**

7. Plaintiff purchased a policy from Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, (hereinafter referred to as "the Policy"), which was in effect at the time of loss.
8. The Policy was purchased to insure Plaintiff's property, (hereinafter referred to as "the Property"), which is located at 2703 Waterfront Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75054.
9. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and/or its agent sold the Policy insuring the Property to Plaintiff.

10. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (“DTPA”) because he is an individual who sought or acquired by purchase or lease, goods or services, for commercial, personal or household use.
11. On or about March 16, 2016, Plaintiff experienced a severe weather related event which caused substantial damage to the Property and surrounding homes and businesses in the area. The Property’s damage constitutes a covered loss under the Policy issued by Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company. Plaintiff subsequently opened a claim on March 16, 2016 and Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company assigned an adjuster to adjust the claim.
12. Thereafter, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company wrongfully underpaid Plaintiff’s claim and refused to issue a full and fair payment for the loss as was rightfully owed under the Policy.
13. Defendant made numerous errors in estimating the value of Plaintiff’s claim, as exhibited by its assigned adjuster’s method of investigation and estimation of Plaintiff’s loss, all of which were designed to intentionally minimize and underpay the loss incurred by Plaintiff. Defendant’s assigned adjuster failed to fully quantify Plaintiff’s damages, thus demonstrating that Defendant’s assigned adjuster did not conduct a thorough investigation of Plaintiff’s claim and/or intentionally adjusted Plaintiff’s claim improperly.
14. Specifically, Defendant, independently and through its assigned adjuster, intentionally and knowingly conducted a substandard investigation of Plaintiff’s property. This is evidenced by Defendant’s assigned adjuster’s estimate, which failed to include all necessary items Plaintiff is entitled to under the Policy to

place the Property in a pre-loss condition; all of which, are covered and required under the International Building Code and/or International Residential Code, as adopted by the State of Texas in 2001.

15. In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) dictates, when working on buildings with “unprotected sides and edges” that “each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet (1.8m) or more above a lower level ***SHALL*** be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.” Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 § 1926.501(b)(1), emphasis added. This was intentionally not included or reflected within the scope of work provided by Defendant for Plaintiff’s damages to the Property as an attempt to further deny Plaintiff benefits owed under the Policy.
16. Defendant’s estimate therefore grossly undervalued and did not allow for adequate funds to cover the cost of repairs for all of the damages sustained to Plaintiff’s property. As a result of Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff’s claim was intentionally and knowingly underpaid.
17. Defendant’s assigned adjuster acted as an authorized agent of Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company. Defendant’s assigned adjuster acted within the course and scope of their authority as authorized by Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company. Plaintiff relied on Defendant and Defendant’s assigned adjuster to properly adjust the claim regarding the Property and be issued payment to fix such damage, which did not happen and has not been rectified to date.
18. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company failed to perform its contractual duties to adequately compensate Plaintiff under the terms of the Policy. Specifically, Defendant refused to pay the

full proceeds owed under the policy. Due demand was made by Sovereign Adjusting Services for proceeds to be in an amount sufficient to cover the damaged property. All conditions precedent to recovery under the Policy had, and have, been carried out and accomplished by Plaintiff. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's conduct constitutes a breach of the insurance contract between Defendant and Plaintiff.

19. Defendant and/or Defendants assigned agent sold the Policy to Plaintiff, making various statements and representations to Plaintiff that the Property would be covered. Due to the promises and representations made by Defendant and/or Defendants assigned agent, Plaintiff filed a claim under the Policy with the belief that the Property would be covered after a severe weather event like the one that damaged the Property.
20. Defendant misrepresented to Plaintiff that the damage to the Property was not covered under the Policy, even though the damage was caused by a covered and named peril under the Policy. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, for Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(a)(1).
21. Defendant failed to make an attempt to settle Plaintiff's claim in a fair manner, although Defendant was aware of their liability to Plaintiff under the Policy. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, for Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(a)(2)(a).
22. Defendant failed to explain to Plaintiff the reasons for their offer of an inadequate settlement. Specifically, Defendant failed to offer Plaintiff adequate compensation, without any reasonable explanation why full payment was not being made. Furthermore, Defendant did not communicate that any future settlements

or payments would be forthcoming to pay for the entire loss covered under the policy, nor did Defendant provide any explanation for the failure to adequately settle Plaintiff's claim. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, for Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(a)(3).

23. Defendant failed to affirm or deny coverage of Plaintiff's claim within a reasonable time. Specifically, Plaintiff did not receive timely indication of acceptance or rejection, regarding the full and entire claim, in writing from Defendant. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, for Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code. §541.060(a)(4).
24. Defendant refused to fully compensate Plaintiff, under the terms of the Policy, by knowingly and intentionally conducting an unreasonable investigation. Specifically, Defendant performed a results-oriented investigation of Plaintiff's claim, which resulted in a biased, unfair and inequitable evaluation of Plaintiff's loss of the Property. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code. §541.060(a)(7).
25. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company failed to meet its obligations under the Texas Insurance Code by untimely acknowledging Plaintiff's claim, beginning an investigation into Plaintiff's claim and requesting all information reasonably necessary to investigate Plaintiff's claim within the statutorily mandated time of receiving notice of Plaintiff's claim. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, for Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code. § 542.055.
26. Defendant failed to accept or deny Plaintiff's full and entire claim, within 15 days, even after receiving all necessary information provided by Plaintiff and Sovereign Adjusting Services. Defendant's conduct

constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, for Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code. § 542.056.

27. Defendant failed to meet its obligation under the Texas Insurance Code regarding payment of claims without delay. Specifically, Defendant has delayed full payment of Plaintiff's claim longer than allowed and, to date, Plaintiff has not yet received full payment for his claim, even though Defendant's liability is without question. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. Tex.Ins.Code. §541.058.
28. From and after the time Plaintiff's claim was presented to Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, the liability of Defendant to pay the full claim in accordance with the terms of the Policy was more than reasonably clear. However, Defendant has refused to pay Plaintiff in full, despite there being no basis whatsoever on which a reasonable insurance company would have relied on to deny full payment. Defendant's conduct constitutes a breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing.
29. Defendant knowingly and recklessly made false representations to Plaintiff, as described above, as to material facts and/or knowingly concealed material information from Plaintiff.
30. Defendant knowingly and purposefully made several misrepresentations about the policy issued to Plaintiff. Defendant's conduct constitutes violations of the Texas Insurance Code, for Unfair Settlement Practices, Tex.Ins.Code.Ann. §541.051(1)(A); §541.061(1), (2), and (3).

31. As a result of Defendant's wrongful acts and omissions, Plaintiff was forced to retain the professional services of McClenny Moseley & Associates, who is representing Plaintiff with respect to these causes of action.
32. Due to the reckless and/or negligent and/or intentional misrepresentations of the Defendant, Plaintiff believed he had no other option but to hire an attorney, seek new insurance coverage and/or attempt and fail to fix the Property.
33. Each and every one of the representations, as described above, concerned material facts, and absent such representations, Plaintiff would not have acted as he did.
34. Each and every one of the representations, as described above, were made by the Defendant recklessly and/or negligently without any knowledge of their truth, and as a positive assertion.
35. As a result of Defendant's errors and/or omissions and/or other misrepresentations, Plaintiff has been severely underpaid and their reliance upon those errors, omissions and misrepresentations have been to Plaintiff's detriment.
36. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was and is a consumer for purposes of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices – Consumer Protection Act ("DTPA").
37. Plaintiff's experience is not an isolated case. The acts and omissions of Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company committed in this case, or similar cases, occur with such frequency that they constitute a general business practice of Defendant with regard to handling these types of claims. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's entire process is unfairly designed to reach favorable outcomes for the company at the expense of the policyholder. Due to these continuous,



systematic and concerted actions to defraud, manipulate and deny policy benefits to Plaintiff and other insureds, Defendant should be punished.

### **CONDITIONS PRECEDENT**

38. All conditions precedent to recovery by Plaintiff has been met or have occurred.

### **AGENCY**

39. All acts by Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company were undertaken and completed by its officers, agents, servants, employees, and/or representatives. All such acts were either done with the full authorization or ratification of Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and/or were completed in its normal and routine course and scope of employment.

40. Defendant and Defendant's assigned adjuster's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(a). All violations under this article are made actionable by Tex.Ins.Code §541.151.

41. Defendant is liable for the unfair and deceptive acts of its assigned adjuster because he/she meets the definition of a "person" as defined by Tex.Ins.Code. §541.002(2). The term "person" is defined as "any individual, corporation, association, partnership, reciprocal or inter insurance exchange, Lloyds plan, fraternal benefit society, or other legal entity engaged in the business of insurance, including an agent, broker, *adjuster* or life and health insurance counselor." Tex.Ins.Code §541.002(2) (emphasis added). (See also *Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. Garrison Contractors, Inc.* 966 S.W.2d 482, 484 (Tex.1998) (holding an insurance company employee to be a person for the purpose of bringing a cause of action against them under the Texas Insurance Code and subjecting them to individual liability)).

42. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all facts and circumstances set forth under the foregoing paragraphs.

**NEGLIGENCE**

43. Plaintiff entrusted Defendant to properly adjust Plaintiff's insurance claim for Plaintiff's property damage.

Defendant did not properly adjust the claim and misinformed Plaintiff of the severity of Plaintiff's property damage. Defendant had and owed a duty to ensure that Plaintiff's property damage was properly adjusted. Nevertheless, Defendant failed to ensure that Plaintiff's damage was properly adjusted. This failure is a clear breach of Defendant's duty, and as a result, Plaintiff suffered significant injuries.

44. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and its assigned adjuster had and owed a legal duty to Plaintiff to properly adjust the structural and property damage and other insurance losses associated with the Property. Defendant, individually and through its assigned adjuster, breached this duty in a number of ways, including, but not limited to, the following.

- A. Defendant, individually and through its assigned adjuster, was to exercise due care in adjusting and paying policy proceeds regarding Plaintiff's property loss;
- B. Defendant, individually and through its assigned adjuster, had a duty to competently and completely handle and pay all damages associated with Plaintiff's property;
- C. Defendant, individually and through its assigned adjuster, failed to properly complete all adjusting activities associated with Plaintiff's loss; and,
- D. Defendant's acts, omissions, and/or breaches, individually and through its assigned adjuster, did great damage to Plaintiff, and were a proximate cause of Plaintiff's damages.

**BREACH OF CONTRACT**

45. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all facts and circumstances set forth under the foregoing paragraphs.
46. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's conduct constitutes a breach of the insurance contract made between Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and Plaintiff.
47. According to the Policy, which Plaintiff purchased, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company had the absolute duty to investigate Plaintiff's damages, and pay Plaintiff policy benefits for the claims made due to the extensive storm-related damages.
48. As a result of the storm-related event, Plaintiff suffered extreme weather related damages.
49. Despite objective evidence of weather related damages provided by Plaintiff and his representatives, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company breached its contractual obligations under the Policy by failing to pay Plaintiff cost related benefits to properly repair Plaintiff's property, as well as for related losses associated with the subject loss event. As a result of this breach, Plaintiff has suffered additional actual and consequential damages.

**VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS DECEPTIVE PRACTICES ACT  
& TIE-IN-STATUTES**

50. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all facts and circumstances set forth under the foregoing paragraphs.
51. Defendant's actions constitute violations of the DTPA, including but not limited to, Sections 17.46(b) (12), (14), (20), (24), and Section 17.50(a) (4) of the Texas Business & Commerce Code. Defendant engaged in false, misleading, or deceptive acts or practices that included, but were not limited to:

- A. Representing that an agreement confers or involves rights, remedies, or obligations which it does not have or involve, or which are prohibited by law;
- B. Misrepresenting the authority of a salesman, representative, or agent to negotiate the final terms of a consumer transaction;
- C. Failing to disclose information concerning goods or services which were known at the time of the transaction, and the failure to disclose such information was intended to induce the consumer into a transaction into which the consumer would not have entered had such information been disclosed;
- D. Using or employing an act or practice in violation of the Texas Insurance Code;
- E. Unreasonably delaying the investigation, adjustment and resolution of Plaintiff's claim;
- F. Failure to properly investigate Plaintiff's claim; and/or
- G. Hiring and relying upon a biased adjuster, in this case Defendant's assigned adjuster, to obtain a favorable, results-oriented report, and to assist Defendant in severely underpaying and/or denying Plaintiff's damage claim.

52. As described in this Original Petition, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company represented to Plaintiff that his Policy and Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's adjusting and investigative services had characteristics or benefits that it actually did not have, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover proceeds under Section 17.46 (b)(5) of the DTPA.

53. As described in this Original Petition, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company represented to Plaintiff that his Policy and Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's adjusting

and investigative services were of a particular standard, quality, or grade when they were of another, which stands in violation of Section 17.46 (b)(7) of the DTPA.

54. By Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company representing that they would pay the entire amount needed by Plaintiff to repair the damages caused by the weather related event and then not doing so, Defendant has violated Sections 17.46 (b)(5), (7) and (12) of the DTPA.

55. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company has breached an express warranty that the damage caused by the storm-related event would be covered under Policy. This breach entitles Plaintiff to recover under Sections 17.46 (b) (12) and (20) and 17.50 (a) (2) of the DTPA.

56. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's actions, as described herein, are unconscionable in that it took advantage of Plaintiff's lack of knowledge, ability, and experience to a grossly unfair degree. Therefore, Defendant's unconscionable conduct gives Plaintiff the right to relief under Section 17.50(a)(3) of the DTPA.

57. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's conduct, acts, omissions, and failures, as described in this Original Petition, are unfair practices in the business of insurance and is in violation of Section 17.50 (a) (4) of the DTPA.

58. Plaintiff is a consumer, as defined under the DTPA, and relied upon these false, misleading, and/or deceptive acts and/or practices, made by Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, to its detriment. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's collective acts and conduct, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Court, for which

Plaintiff now sues. All of the aforementioned acts, omissions, and failures of Defendant are a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages which are described in this Original Petition.

59. Because Defendant's collective actions and conduct were committed knowingly and intentionally, Plaintiff is entitled to recover, in addition to all damages described herein, mental anguish damages and additional penalty damages, in an amount not to exceed three times such actual damages, for Defendant having knowingly, intentionally and/or negligently committed said actions and conduct.
60. As a result of Defendant's unconscionable, misleading, and deceptive actions and conduct, Plaintiff has been forced to retain the legal services of the undersigned attorneys to protect and pursue these claims on his behalf. Accordingly, Plaintiff also seeks to recover their costs and reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees as permitted under Section 17.50(d) of the Texas Business & Commerce Code, as well as any other such damages to which Plaintiff may show themselves to be justly entitled by law and in equity.

#### **VIOLATIONS OF TEXAS INSURANCE CODE**

61. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all facts and circumstances set forth within the foregoing paragraphs.
62. Defendant's actions constitute violations of the Texas Insurance Code, including but not limited to, Article 21.21 Sections 4(10) (a) (ii), (iv), and (viii) (codified as Section 541.060), Article 21.21 Section 11(e) (codified as Section 541.061), and Article 21.55 Section 3(f) (codified as Section 542.058). Specifically, Defendant engaged in certain unfair or deceptive acts or practices that include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Failing to attempt, in good faith, to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of a claim with respect to which the insurer's liability has become reasonably clear (Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(2)(A).);
  - B. Failing to promptly provide to a policyholder a reasonable explanation of the basis in the policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for the insurer's denial of a claim or for the offer of a compromise settlement of a claim (Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(3).);
  - C. Refusing to pay a claim without conducting a reasonable investigation with respect to the claim;
  - D. Forcing Plaintiffs to file suit to recover amounts due under the policy by refusing to pay all benefits due (Tex.Ins.Code §542.003(5).);
  - E. Misrepresenting an insurance policy by failing to disclose any matter required by law to be disclosed, including a failure to make such disclosure in accordance with another provision of this code; and/or
  - F. Failing to pay a valid claim after receiving all reasonably requested and required items from the insured.
63. Plaintiff is the insured and beneficiary of this claim, which is obviously valid as a result of the unfair or deceptive acts or practices of Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, and Plaintiff relied upon these unfair or deceptive acts or practices by Defendant to his detriment.

64. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's acts and conduct, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount exceeding the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Court, for which they now sue.
65. Since a violation of the Texas Insurance Code is a direct violation of the DTPA, and because Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's actions and conduct were committed knowingly and intentionally, Plaintiff is entitled to recover, in addition to all damages described herein, mental anguish damages and additional penalty damages, in an amount not to exceed three times the amount of actual damages, for Defendant having knowingly, intentionally and/or negligently committed said actions and conduct.
66. As a result of Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's unfair and deceptive actions and conduct, Plaintiff has been forced to retain the legal services of the undersigned attorneys to protect and pursue these claims on their behalf. Accordingly, Plaintiff also seeks to recover their costs and reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees as permitted under Section 17.50(d) of the Texas Business & Commerce Code or Article 21.21 Section 16(b) (1) (codified as Section 541.152) of the Texas Insurance Code and any other such damages to which Plaintiff may show himself justly entitled by law and in equity.

**BREACH OF THE COMMON LAW DUTY  
OF GOOD FAITH & FAIR DEALING**

67. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all facts and circumstances in the foregoing paragraphs.
68. By its acts, omissions, failures and conduct, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company has collectively and individually breached the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing by conducting a result oriented investigation and inadequately adjusting Plaintiff's claim without any



reasonable basis, and by failing to conduct a reasonable investigation to determine whether there was a reasonable basis for the denial of Plaintiff's covered loss.

69. Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company has also breached the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing by unreasonably delaying payment of Plaintiff's entire claim and by failing to settle Plaintiff's claim, as Defendant knew, or should have known, it was reasonably clear that Plaintiff's storm-related claims were covered. These acts, omissions, failures, and conduct by Defendant is a proximate cause of Plaintiff's damages.

### **UNFAIR INSURANCE PRACTICES**

70. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all facts and circumstances in the foregoing paragraphs.

71. Plaintiff has satisfied all conditions precedent to bringing these causes of action. By its acts, omissions, failures, and conduct, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company has engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the business of insurance, which is in violation of Chapter 541 of the Texas Insurance Code.

72. In addition to all conduct described in this Original Petition, such violations include, without limitation, Defendants Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's failure to properly investigate Plaintiff's claim; unreasonable delays in the investigation, adjustment, and resolution of Plaintiff's claim; and, failure to pay for the proper repair of Plaintiff's Property, as to which Defendant's liability had become reasonably clear, as well as all actions taken by its agents.

73. Additional violations include Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's hiring of and reliance upon biased adjusters and/or engineers to obtain favorable, result-oriented reports to assist it in

severely underpaying and/or denying Plaintiff's storm-related damage and claims. Plaintiff further includes Defendant's failure to look for coverage and give Plaintiff the benefit of the doubt, as well as Defendant's misrepresentations of coverage under the Policy. Specifically, Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, individually and through its assigned adjuster, is also guilty of the following unfair insurance practices:

- A. Engaging in false, misleading, and deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance in this case, as it conspired;
- B. Engaging in unfair claims settlement practices, as it conspired;
- C. Misrepresenting to Plaintiff pertinent facts or policy provisions relating to the coverage at issue, as it conspired;
- D. Not attempting in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of Plaintiff's claim as to which Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's liability had become reasonably clear, as it conspired;
- E. Failing to affirm or deny coverage of Plaintiff's claim within a reasonable time and failing within a reasonable time to submit a reservation of rights letter to Plaintiff, as it conspired (Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(4).);
- F. Refusing to pay Plaintiff's claim without conducting a reasonable investigation with respect to the claim, as it conspired (Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(7).); and/or,

G. Failing to promptly provide to a policyholder a reasonable explanation of the basis in the insurance policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for the denial of a claim or for the offer of a compromise settlement, as it conspired (Tex.Ins.Code §.541.060(3)).

74. Defendant's aforementioned conduct compelled Plaintiff to initiate this lawsuit to recover amounts due under the Policy, by offering substantially less than the amount ultimately recovered. Defendant refused to offer more than the grossly undervalued estimates prepared by Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and/or Defendant's assigned adjuster, despite knowing the actual damages were much greater than what was offered. The continued failure compelled Plaintiff to file suit. Tex.Ins.Code §542.003(5).

#### **KNOWLEDGE**

75. Each of the acts described above, together and singularly, were done "knowingly" and "intentionally", as the terms are used in the Texas Insurance Code, and were a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages described herein.

#### **DAMAGES**

76. Plaintiff will show that all of the aforementioned acts, taken together or singularly, constitute the producing causes of the damages sustained by Plaintiff.

77. For breach of contract, Plaintiff is entitled to regain the benefit of Plaintiff's bargain, which is the amount of Plaintiff's claim, together with attorneys' fees.

78. For noncompliance with the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, which include the loss of the benefit that should have been paid pursuant to the Policy,

court costs and attorneys' fees. For knowing conduct of the acts complained of, Plaintiff asks for three times Plaintiff's actual damages. Tex.Ins.Code §541.152.

79. For noncompliance with Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims, Plaintiff is entitled to the amount of Plaintiff's claim, as well as eighteen (18) percent interest per annum of the amount of Plaintiff's claim as damages, together with attorneys' fees. Tex.Ins.Code §542.060.

80. For breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages, including all forms of loss resulting from the insurer's breach of duty, such as additional costs, economic hardship, losses due to nonpayment of the amount the insurer owed, and/or exemplary damages for emotional distress.

81. For the prosecution and collection of this claim, Plaintiff has been compelled to engage the services of the law firm whose name is subscribed to this pleading. Therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to recover a sum for the reasonable and necessary services of Plaintiff's attorneys in the preparation and trial of this action, including any appeals to the Court of Appeals and/or the Supreme Court of Texas.

82. Defendant's acts have been the producing and/or proximate cause of damage to Plaintiff, and Plaintiff seeks an amount in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Court.

83. More specifically, Plaintiff seeks monetary relief, including damages of any kind, penalties, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest, and attorneys' fees, in excess of \$200,000.00 but less than \$1,000,000.00.

**ADDITIONAL DAMAGES & PENALTIES**

84. Defendant's conduct was committed knowingly and intentionally. Accordingly, Defendant is liable for additional damages under the DTPA, section 17.50(b) (1), as well as all operative provisions of the Texas Insurance Code. Plaintiff is clearly entitled to the 18% damages allowed by the Texas Insurance Code.

**ATTORNEY'S FEES**

85. In addition, Plaintiff is entitled to all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees pursuant to the Texas Insurance Code, DTPA, and sections 38.001-.005 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

**COMPEL MEDIATION**

86. Pursuant to §541.161 of the Texas Insurance Code and §17.5051 of the Texas Business and Commerce code, Plaintiff requests that Defendant be made to mediate no later than the 30th day of the signed order, following the 90th day after the date for which this pleading for relief is served upon Defendant.

**JURY DEMAND**

87. Plaintiff demands a jury trial, consisting of citizens residing in Dallas County, Texas, and tenders the appropriate fee with this Original Petition.

**DISCOVERY**

88. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 47 has been met in this petition. As such, Plaintiff requests that Defendant respond to the Requests for Disclosure, Requests for Production and Interrogatories contained herein:

**I. REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE**

1. Pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff request that Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, disclose all information and/or material as required by Rule 194.2, paragraphs (a) through (l), and to do so within 50 days of this request.

## **II. REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION**

1. Please produce Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's complete claim files from the home, regional and local offices, as well as third party adjusters/adjusting firms regarding the subject claim, including copies of the file jackets, "field" files and notes, and drafts of documents contained in the file for the premises relating to or arising out of Plaintiff's underlying claim.
2. Please produce the underwriting files referring or relating in any way to the policy at issue in this action, including the file folders in which the underwriting documents are kept and drafts of all documents in the file.
3. Please produce a certified copy of the insurance policy pertaining to the claim made subject of this lawsuit, including all underwriting files and insurance applications sent on behalf of Plaintiff in his attempt to secure insurance on the Property, which is the subject of this suit.
4. Please produce the electronic diary, including the electronic and paper notes made by Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's claims personnel, contractors, and third party adjusters/adjusting firms relating to the Plaintiff's claim.
5. Please produce all emails and other forms of communication by and between all parties in this matter relating to the underlying event, claim or the Property, which is the subject of this suit.
6. Please produce the adjusting reports, estimates and appraisals prepared concerning Plaintiff's underlying claim.
7. Please produce the field notes, measurements and file maintained by the adjuster(s) and engineers who physically inspected the Property, which is the subject of this suit.

8. Please produce the emails, instant messages and internal correspondence pertaining to Plaintiff's underlying claim.
9. Please produce the videotapes, photographs and recordings of Plaintiff or Plaintiff's home, regardless of whether Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company intends to offer these items into evidence at trial.
10. Please produce all communications, correspondence, documents and emails between any and all assigned adjusters and/or agents and the Plaintiff, not limited to physical or audio recordings of all conversations between Plaintiff and any and all assigned adjusters and/or agents.
11. Please produce all audio recordings or transcripts of conversations, calls, text, email or any other data sent to and from Plaintiff by any and all assigned adjusters and/or agents after their letter of representation sent by counsel.
12. Please provide copies of all marketing material sent on behalf of Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and/or its agents after the date of loss of the Property, which is the subject of this suit.
13. Please provide all correspondence between Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and its assigned adjuster, and all correspondence between Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and its assigned agents, after the date of loss of the Property, which is the subject of this suit.

### **III. INTERROGATORIES**

1. Please identify any person Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company expects to call to testify at the time of trial.

2. Please identify the persons involved in the investigation and handling of Plaintiff's claim for insurance benefits arising from damage relating to the underlying event, claim or the Property, which is the subject of this suit, and include a brief description of the involvement of each person identified, their employer, and the date(s) of such involvement.
3. If Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company or Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's representatives performed any investigative steps in addition to what is reflected in the claims file, please generally describe those investigative steps conducted by Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company or any of Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's representatives with respect to the facts surrounding the circumstances of the subject loss. Identify the persons involved in each step.
4. Please identify by date, author, and result the estimates, appraisals, engineering, mold and other reports generated as a result of Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's investigation.
5. Please state the following concerning notice of claim and timing of payment:
  - a. The date and manner in which Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company received notice of the claim;
  - b. The date and manner in which Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company acknowledged receipt of the claim;
  - c. The date and manner in which Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company commenced investigation of the claim;



- d. The date and manner in which Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company requested from the claimant all items, statements, and forms that Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company reasonably believed, at the time, would be required from the claimant; and
  - e. The date and manner in which Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company notified the claimant in writing of the acceptance or rejection of the claim.
6. Please identify by date, amount and reason, the insurance proceeds payments made by Defendant, or on Defendant's behalf, to the Plaintiff.
7. Has Plaintiff's claim for insurance benefits been rejected or denied? If so, state the reasons for rejecting/denying the claim.
8. When was the date Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company anticipated litigation?
9. Have any documents (including those maintained electronically) relating to the investigation or handling of Plaintiff's claim for insurance benefits been destroyed or disposed of? If so, please identify what, when and why the document was destroyed, and describe Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's document retention policy.
10. Does Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company contend that the insured's premises were damaged by storm-related events and/or any excluded peril? If so, state the general factual basis for this contention.
11. Does Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company contend that any act or omission by the Plaintiff voided, nullified, waived or breached the insurance policy in any way? If so, state the general factual basis for this contention.

12. Does Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company contend that the Plaintiff failed to satisfy any condition precedent or covenant of the policy in any way? If so, state the general factual basis for this contention.

13. How is the performance of the adjuster(s) involved in handling Plaintiff's claim evaluated? State the following:

- a. What performance measures are used; and
- b. Describe Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company's bonus or incentive plan for adjusters.

### **CONCLUSION**

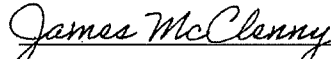
89. Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company and that Plaintiff be awarded all of his actual damages, consequential damages, prejudgment interest, additional statutory damages, post judgment interest, reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees, court costs and for all such other relief, general or specific, in law or in equity, whether pled or un-pled within this Original Petition.

### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays he be awarded all such relief to which they are due as a result of the acts of Defendant Allstate Vehicle & Property Insurance Company, and for all such other relief to which Plaintiff may be justly and rightfully entitled. In addition, Plaintiff requests the award of treble damages under the Texas Insurance Code, attorneys' fees for the trial and any appeal of this lawsuit, for all costs of Court on their behalf expended, for pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as allowed

by law, and for any other and further relief, either at law or in equity, to which Plaintiff may show the himself to be justly entitled.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



**MCCLENNY MOSELEY & ASSOCIATES, PLLC**

James M. McClenny

State Bar No. 24091857

J. Zachary Moseley

State Bar No. 24092863

411 N. Sam Houston Parkway E., Suite 200

Houston, Texas 77060

Principal Office No. 713-334-6121

Facsimile: 713-322-5986

[james@mma-pllc.com](mailto:james@mma-pllc.com)

[zach@mma-pllc.com](mailto:zach@mma-pllc.com)

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF**